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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 3, 1977

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FACRC
DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance
Department of State
2201 C Street
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It has come to my attention that the human rights situation in Argentina has assumed alarming proportions. Reports that have come across my desk indicate that there has been a rise in anti-semitic activity and that other groups such as journalists, doctors, and scientists have been arrested in large numbers. Other members of these groups have disappeared and been kidnapped, reportedly by para-military groups allied to the armed forces.

During my recent trip to Argentina as the Congressional delegate to the United Nations Water Conference in Mar de Plata I observed an extremely restrictive military society.

Recent events indicate that the human rights situation is deteriorating both in terms of increased religious persecution and harassment of the press. I have been informed that newspaper and publishing houses, radio stations, and magazines have been shut down, and their employees arrested. These events support the contention that right now in Argentina there is no freedom of the press and that the government continues to violate the basic human rights of its citizens.

Consistent with President Carter's policy on human rights and the concern of the United States for the preservation of these basic rights everywhere, I am enclosing a list of journalists who have reportedly disappeared since March of 1976.

I request that the State Department investigate this situation and report to the Congress as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Fred Richmond

FWR/mw
Enclosure

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to
Date ☐ Declassify on Reason

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ACTION
is assigned to
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